

## THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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## HONEST MONEY AND DISHONEST MEN.

ATKINSON, Neb., Aug. 7, 1896.—To the Editor of The Bee:

In your editorial of August 6, replying to J. S. M. of Weeping Water, in which you say that it would be

legalized robbery to pay a \$1,000 debt with

\$500 free coinage, it is not a fact that

we have no 50-cent dollars in this country,

neither will there be any if W. J. Bryan is

elected president. Now, as to legalized

robbery, here is a case, and you will have

millions of them if we adopt the single gold

standard:

A few years ago a man borrowed \$500 on

his farm. The farm was valued personally

by the party who loaned the money, and as

a law-abiding citizen he took every care in

the deal. You say when a man consults a

doctor he must keep nothing from him, so I

will give you the details. This farm was

valued at \$2,000. In a few years the

borrower died, and through some misunder-

standing, the heirs did not pay the inter-

est. The lender commenced foreclosure

proceedings, the heirs having moved away

in the meantime. When it came time for

the sale no one could be found to value

the farm for less than \$2,000. Under our

state laws this land would have to sell for

two-thirds the appraised value, which would

amount to \$1,333.33. The lender comes in

and swears it is not worth this and gets it

reappraised with the same result. Finally

he succeeds in getting the sheriff to

bring it down to cover the amount of his

loan, \$500, and two years' interest and

taxes. Immediately after the sale this

land was put on the market at \$2,000. The

writer asked the lender in a very short

time afterwards if nothing less would buy

this same land.

His reply was: "No," in a very insulting

manner, "it's worth more money." There

are hundreds of such cases where you could

walk before breakfast and view them, and

thousands through the state. Understand,

the case referred to is not mixed up with

the question of the gold and silver standard,

but you could call up the principal by

telephone any moment. I have read

The Daily Bee for fourteen years and as a

regular subscriber the most of this time.

I have voted the republican ticket before

Bryan was born. So I am entitled to do a

little quiet thinking for myself at present.

The foregoing is not a legal robbery.

It is, if you get to a gold and silver

standard, and you will have a nation of

landlords and paupers. There is nothing to

defeat W. J. Bryan for president but English

boodle. At the last issue of bonds the

English syndicate offered millions to issue

gold bonds. Out of the \$100,000,000 I will

venture the assertion there is not \$100,000

of them in the United States today. Seventy

percent of our eastern gold republicans

and democrats own today land bought at

foreclosure in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota,

Kansas and Nebraska. Kindly enlighten

me on who are the legalized robbers, the

silver or gold or both? L. M.

Grant that the facts related here are

exactly as stated, how does that justify

a policy of legalized robbery? Can two

wrong make one right? No rational

person contends that honesty in busi-

ness transactions can be guaranteed by

act of congress or swindling abolished

whether we have a gold standard, a

silver standard or an irredeemable

paper currency.

The prediction that we shall have mil-

lions of land loan swindles perpetrated

if we adopt the gold standard only

illustrates the confused ideas which

people otherwise intelligent have con-

cerning the money plank in the St. Louis

platform. "If we adopt the single gold

standard." We have had the

single gold standard since 1834 and the

republican party simply pledges itself

to maintain that standard with all the

money of the United States, gold, silver

and paper exchangeable at par the one

for the other. The Bryan silverites, on

the other hand, propose to revolutionize

our money system under the false pre-

text of restoring something we never

had, and thereby reducing the nation to

a commercial level with Mexico and

China.

It is deplorable that there have been

so many mortgage swindles perpetrated

in Holt county and in other portions of

Nebraska. But these swindles have not

all been committed without the aid or

consent of the "honest" farmer. We re-

member that not many years ago honest

farmers in that section conspired with

certain money sharks to defraud the

eastern money sharks by conniving

at appraisements many times the actual

value of their property in order to plas-

ter them with mortgages double their

market worth, which were never in-

tended to be paid. In these cases the

landlord papers cheerfully vacated

their overvalued farms and let the mort-

gage holder take them, generally with-

out foreclosure, congratulating them-

selves that they had driven a shrewd

bargain. This also was legalized rob-

bery, but it had no more to do with the

existing money standard than did the

later defalcation of the Holt county

trustee.

We do not believe even Bryan would

claim that the "crime of 1873" is re-

sponsible for such anarchy, or that

10 to 1 free silver coinage would pre-

vent its recurrence or reimburse the

dupes.

THE LIST INCREASES.

The number of prominent and influen-

tial democrats who repudiate the Chi-

cago platform and ticket steadily grows.

The most recent addition to the list in-

vited from not passing attention is

Hon. Robert E. Wright, chairman of the

with them, after the devotion of a life